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Letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and on the basis of the information available from the Syrian Union of Chambers of Industry, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Because of the terrorist operations that are being carried out by armed groups in Syria, the huge amount of damage that has been sustained in the city of Aleppo at all levels, including the humanitarian, the economic and the cultural levels, has exceeded all expectations. That is particularly true with regard to the heritage and cultural aspects of a city that has been a repository of the human cultural heritage for more than 7,000 years.

In this context, we refer to all the industrial and productive areas that have been deliberately destroyed, systematically looted and subjected to commercial terrorism. The same applies to commercial shops and markets in various parts of the city of Aleppo. The terrorists have also deliberately targeted the tourism sector, destroying and looting most of the tourist installations; burning and destroying historic markets; transforming the whole of the old city and its caravanserais and souks into a battleground and setting fire to everything therein with a savagery that has no precedent in the city.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations would like to notify you that the Syrian Union of Chambers of Industry, in its capacity as the representative of the economic actors in Aleppo, has asked that you should be informed that it reserves its right to use all international bodies to seek material and moral compensation from the States that are supporting the armed opposition, with a view to transferring such compensation to all those in the city of Aleppo who have been affected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative

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